

# CASS MCCOMBS

NEW CAREER HIGHS IN 2016:



First time on the **billboard 200**

ellen  
the ellen degeneres show

First national television performance

Full-page feature profile in **The New York Times**

First time in CMJ Top 5, First time in AAA top 20

KEXP  
90.3 FM



90.7  
wfuw  
.org

wxpn  
88.7 99.7



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**Rolling Stone**

"Arguably the  
greatest American  
singer-songwriter  
of this generation"

**VIBE**

"[McCombs] is at the  
height of his talents"

**FADEr**

"Stunning"



**Q MAGAZINE**

"McCombs' dedication to craft and distaste for  
compromise is unwavering. It's the kind of steely  
self-confidence that provides fleeting inspiration  
to the rebel hiding inside all of us..." **npr**

"His most focused  
work yet (8.1)"

**Pitchfork**

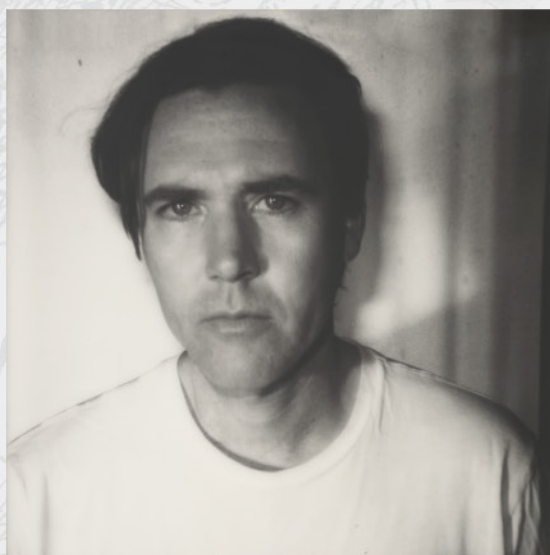
**9/10**

**UNCUT**

"McCombs' richest  
ever recording"



**NME**



"his finest album"



**MOJO**

"Adventurous and  
full of wonders"

**PastE**

"Impeccable...McCombs' lyrics  
are some of the greatest you  
could hope to hear nowadays." -

**The Washington Post**

"one of the best,  
most immersive  
records of 2016"

THE LINE OF BEST FIT

"One of those rare albums  
that reveals a little  
more with every play"

**★★★★ theguardian**

"some of the gentlest, most lush  
productions of McCombs's career"



"Cass McCombs is  
pulling no punches"

**DIY**

"one of the great songwriters of his time" **The New York Times**

**ANTI-** MANGY LOVE

[CASSMCCOMBS.COM](http://CASSMCCOMBS.COM)





# CASS MCCOMBS

**Some of our most celebrated musical artists shared their thoughts  
on their favorite Cass McCombs songs...**

**Dave Hartley, War On Drugs** : “Harmonia”:

*“Harmonia” came to me the way all important songs make their way into our lives: through the ears of a friend, at the exact moment it was meant to be discovered. The melody is an effortless gesture, eloquent and casual.*

**Chris Taylor, Grizzly Bear** : “I Went to the Hospital”

*Cass McCombs is undeniably one of our generation’s most important songwriters.*

**Rostam Batmanglij, Vampire Weekend** : “Bobby, King of Boys Town”

*Cass has recorded songs since that showcase his voice or his lyrics more, but none float through a room quite like this one. People don’t make recordings that sound this free or loose anymore... and that’s a shame.*

**Scott Devendorf, the National** : “Love Thine Enemy”

*I like how he turns the Biblical phrase on its head with his caveat “but hate their lack of sincerity.” Like: “Fine love them, but it’s OK to be annoyed by them.” He later adds: “That’s why after the quote I added: ‘sincerity.’” We had the pleasure of playing this song with Bob Weir a few years ago who lent it new dimension and gravitas. “Now nothing about my love could be called insincere!”*

**Paul Collins, Beirut** : “To Every Man His Chimera”

*Our greatest songwriter should also be recognized as our greatest band leader. At once beautiful and unnerving, “Chimera” is Cass in slow-motion.*

**Jim James, My Morning Jacket** : “Saturday Song”

*If it gets cold enough and the water freezes even and solid, I will hook up a team of horses to pull an old-fashioned gazebo on skates around the lake — with an old-style brass band playing and oil lamps and everything — and as we skate alongside the gazebo it will sound so fitting when they play this song and the light on the ice and snow and everything.*

**Hamilton Leithauser, the Walkmen** : “County Line”

*I love this song. I went on tour with Cass and didn’t actually get to know him very well. When I got home, I remembered this funny joke he told me in Milwaukee about bagels at the airport and I bought one of his records. I liked it, so I bought another. “County Line” was on this record [2011’s WIT’S END]. It’s got a great calmness in the vibrato and melody.*

**Mike Gordon, Phish** : “There Can Be Only One”

*One of the most mesmerizing and evocative songs I’ve heard in a long time.*

**Angel Olsen** : “Brighter!”

*I like to think of it as a song about selling out and how you lose your soul when you eat up all the candy the industry can offer.*

**Will Sheff, Okkervil River** : “My Sister, My Spouse”

*Cass McCombs songs are a perfect balance of a simple idea, a charming melody and some extra mystical presence that you can feel but can’t quite identify.*



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**Taylor Goldsmith, Dawes** : “Home on the Range”

*This song is one of the most definitive examples of how Cass blends his beautiful compositional sensibilities with examples of his wise but piercing philosophy. No one is able to put such heavy words and melodies together quite like this.*

**Jess Wolfe, Lucius** : “Dreams-Come-True-Girl”

*A simply perfect melody evoking that simply perfect feeling. When I first heard this song I knew I couldn't unhear it. Cass is clear with the meaning in all of his songs and the melodies always hold that feeling, hand in hand. He makes it look so simple, felt so deeply, and makes you wish you wrote it.*

**Erika Wennerstrom, Heartless Bastards** : “Big Wheel”

*Cass has such a knack for interesting, thoughtful words. It's honest art. Like he says in this song he “sticks to his principles” ... His songs actually make you think.*

**Jenny Lewis** : “That's That”

*I first heard “That's That” in the basement of Max Fish in the LES. Cass was playing a show while a woman held her shirt above her head, exposing her breasts and swaying to the band less than two feet away from Cass' mic stand. Her boyfriend snapped pictures of her with a professional camera as Cass sang with his eyes glued shut. Flash! Flash! I then shut my eyes in solidarity and let the tunes transport me elsewhere. “That's That” struck me so effortlessly that night that I began covering it on my next tour. It found me, really. Just the tune that I needed to hear. With my eyes shut.*

**Eric Slick, Dr. Dog** : “What Isn't Nature”

*This song is about as close as Cass will ever get to writing an anthem — except that it's an anthem about “mosquitoes sucking blood” and “Porta-Potty hippies.” It's a humorous, serious and wistful composition that also has an effervescent chorus. I don't know too many people who write choruses like that, and only Cass could pose such a dichotomy. A true master.*

**Brian Rosenworcel, Guster** : “AIDS in Africa”

*Who pulls off a lyric about AIDS in Africa? I don't know how he does it. The chord progression in this song feels like an endless kiddie ride at an amusement park. You just want it to go around and around forever.*

**Sondre Lerche** : “You Saved My Life”

*Cass is a modern American classic. An Avant-garde traditionalist, if you will. His Catacombs album was a really inspiring piece of work to me when it came out. Something else.*

**Blake Mills** : “Memory's Stain”

*Landing somewhere between Burt Bacharach and Ben Webster musically, “Memory's Stain” has some of Cass' most discrete and elegant singing and what might be my favorite lyrical statement of the last ten years.*

**Miles Michaud, Allah-Las** : “I Cannot Lie”

*I remember buying this single in high school and playing it over and over again until it was too scratched up from my cheap Califone stylus to keep going. Cass' prolific recordings have undoubtedly influenced many artists in this city and elsewhere.*